

sewage collection and water recycling services. In 1999/2000 Eastern Municipal sold 83,000 acre-feet of fresh water alone (one-acre-foot is 325,900 gallons, or as much as two families use in and around their homes in one year). One quarter of their water supply comes from wells, while the remainder comes from the Colorado River Aqueduct and its connections to the California State Water Project. Additionally, Eastern Municipal sells to eight other water agencies, which serve the areas of: Elsinore Valley, Western Riverside County, Lake Hemet, City of Hemet, Nuevo, City of San Jacinto and Rancho California.

In water storage, Eastern Municipal maintains 76 tanks which hold nearly 170 million gallons of water. These tanks provide assurance that water will be available during possible future droughts or declining water supply.

Mr. Speaker, for the state of California there are two issues constantly at the forefront: water, and more water. Therefore, the importance of municipal water districts cannot be underestimated—they will continue to grow and play an increasingly important role in southern California. As the Riverside and the Inland Empire continue to grow, we will need to find ways to live within the 4.4 million acre-foot restriction on the Colorado River that has been imposed by the Secretary of the Interior on southern California. The goals of reclamation will become even more important. Eastern Municipal Water District has proven itself capable of solving our water supply challenges for the past 50 years. I look forward to working with them on our important shared goals for years to come. Again, I extend my "Congratulations!" to Eastern Municipal Water District.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FISCAL YEAR
2001 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4461, the Fiscal Year Agriculture Appropriations Conference report. Although this bill is flawed, it contains critical provisions which reflect my commitment to providing seniors access to lifesaving prescription medications. The measure provides \$78.5 billion—\$3 billion more than the House-passed bill—for critical programs from prescription drugs to hunger, food safety, and clean water.

I vigorously support efforts to increase seniors' access to affordable prescription drugs. This Conference agreement allows U.S. pharmacies and wholesalers to buy American-made prescription drugs abroad and reimport them into the United States. Since these drugs are often sold abroad at prices significantly below those charged in the United States, America consumers will be able to purchase these reimported drugs at lower prices than they would otherwise pay.

Although I support the reimportation provisions, this step should not be mistaken as a substitute for much-needed prescription drug coverage under Medicare. I continue to urge my colleagues to join me in calling for the en-

actment of a comprehensive prescription drug program to be included as a part of all Seniors' basic Medicare benefits.

In addition to addressing the problem of prescription drugs for seniors, the Conferees have taken steps to ameliorate several other pivotal issues in the House-passed bill. The report addresses the ongoing prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in America by incorporating sections of H.R. 3192, the Hunger Relief Act. Low-income families are currently disqualified from participation in the food stamp program if they own a car worth more than \$4,650, or if they pay monthly housing costs of more than \$275. As a cosponsor of the Hunger Relief Act, I am pleased that under this report both vehicle and housing expenses would be updated to more accurately reflect the expense of reliable transportation, and the high cost of housing incurred by America's working families—allowing increased participation in the nation's first line of defense against hunger.

The measure also improves upon the House bill by providing sufficient funding for critical food safety and conservation programs. The Conference measure increased funding for the Food Safety and Inspection Service by more than \$22 million, which will help minimize contamination and ensure consumer food safety. Additionally, the bill provides additional funding for state water quality grants and conservation programs, which include essential flood prevention operations.

Unfortunately, the Conference committee did not act in the best interest of our children, or our farmers, when it agreed to a \$500 million subsidy for tobacco companies. I have worked hard to protect America's children from the dangers of tobacco, and I have supported long-term solutions to the fundamental problems facing the small family-run tobacco farm, which is why I am deeply dismayed that the Conferees have included such an ill conceived provision that undermines the health of our children and the viability of the struggling family farm.

My colleagues, as unsatisfactory as some of the provisions in this bill may be, it is up to us to do everything in our power to provide access to prescription drugs that can mean the difference between life and death, or between health and chronic disease, for senior citizens. Although the Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report is not a perfect bill, I urge you not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. For that reason, I support H.R. 4461, the Fiscal Year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Conference report.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA M.
WILLIAMS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a very special person, Mrs. Thelma M. Williams, who will be honored in New Jersey by the Elks Pride of Trenton on October 28th for her many years of dedicated community service.

A native of Freehold, New Jersey, Mrs. Williams is a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, where she works on the Building Ground Committee and with the Episcopal Church Women. A caring person who is always there to help others, Mrs. Williams serves as a volunteer in the soup kitchen. Organizations to which she belongs include the Elks Pride of Trenton; the NAACP; and AFSCME, where she holds the post of treasurer. In addition, she works on the Board of Elections and serves as a trustee of the Northwest Community Improvement Association. She was employed by the State for 32 years and retired in 1990.

Mrs. Williams is proud of her family—she has a daughter, Marie Meadow, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She serves as an inspiration to all of those around her.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Mrs. Williams for her dedicated service and our very best wishes as she is honored this weekend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2000 the House in recorded vote number 459 voted on H.R. 4844 the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act. During this vote I mistakenly voted Nay against the bill and should have voted Aye in favor of the bill. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 4844 and wish to express my support for the bill.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT INFILTRATING
ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE THE SPECTRE OF
"TERRORISM" IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to light that the police in Punjab have been planting RDX explosives on members of the Babbar Khalsa organization in Punjab and then killing them in encounters, claiming that they are importing the explosives from Pakistan.

The Indian government is known to have infiltrated the organization's top levels. They used their agents within this and other organizations to carry out the bombing of their own Air India airliner off Canada in 1985, which killed 329 innocent people.

In November 1994, the Hitavada, an Indian newspaper, reported that the Indian government paid \$1.5 billion to the late Governor of Punjab, a man named Surendra Nath, to foment terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir. In March, according to two extensive investigations, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithi Singhpora. Between 1993 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs "disappeared" at the hands of Indian forces. According to Amnesty International, there are